

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 151 (6/15/05)

1. Purpose: A regularly scheduled meeting of the RACC was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST in Room 3246 on Wednesday, June 15, 2005, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.

2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Neal DiPasquale; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Jeff Walker, Sean Wink; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **NGIT**: Bruno Vercillo, Dave Holloran, Doug Rankin; **FSL**: Rich Jesuroga, Mike Vrencur; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **ROC**: Mark Albertelly

3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:

a. Status of OB5 and Other Software Issues: There are currently 30 sites at OB4.1a. There are 10 sites at OB4.1b and this maintenance release contains performance enhancements for sites that do not have the DX/NAS installed. It was released last Friday and can be installed by any OB4.1a site. It takes 10 to 15 minutes to install. There are currently 93 sites running OB4.2.

Concerning OB5: The mod note and release notes are posted on the web and the regional focal points are scheduling on the calendar. Full deployment start date is set for June 22. It was pointed out that it is important that the proper naming convention be used for scheduling sites on the Oracle calendar or else things will be jumbled up and out of order.

Concerning OB5.0.1: It was recently discovered that a flawed version of RiverPro (where it doesn't work properly in a flood event) was delivered in the final OB5 CDs. This emergency release should be installed on the same day as OB5 and will take about 5 minutes to complete. It is planned to be available by June 22. NGIT will push the tar files out to the existing OB5 sites next week.

b. OB6 COTS Changes, OB6 PostgreSQL Configuration: Stowe Davison had distributed to the RACC mailing list on Tuesday a list of the COTS changes approved for OB6 by the Software Engineering Group (SwEG), and also a summary of the configuration of PostgreSQL as it will be delivered with OB6.

Stowe wanted to emphasize two items from the list of COTS changes. The first one is the Motif. In OB5, the Version is 2.1.30. In OB6, the version as delivered with Red Hat 3 (native) is 2.2.3.

The old OB5 version will be retained to support code that cannot be changed in time for OB6. After OB6, we do not plan to deliver Motif as part of the AWIPS Freeware. Developers should plan to use the native version (the version delivered with the operating system). The second emphasis is Netscape, which in OB5 is on version 4.78. It will be deprecated in OB6. We must keep it because the intersite (ISC) chat client [12Planet] cannot use Mozilla, but all other applications that use a browser should use the native Mozilla browser (i.e., the Mozilla browser that is delivered with the operating system). The Eastern Region asked how will this information

get out as we near OB6? The WSH response is that it will be part of the OB6 installation instructions but this information can be passed onto the field sites now.

c. LDAD Firewall Rules Set: A draft of the Business Rule Set for the new firewall was distributed to the RACC mailing list on Tuesday. Phil Cragg proceeded to summarize each of the rules in the Rule Set.

During the discussion of the Firewall Business Rule Set, the following question was asked: On the current AWIPS Gauntlet firewall, what log files can be examined to determine the type of traffic which is currently passing through the Gauntlet firewall? Wayne Martin answered by stating the log files for the AWIPS Gauntlet firewalls are located in the /usr/var/log directory on the AWIPS Gauntlet firewall. The log file for the current day is /usr/var/log/messages. The log files from the seven previous days are messages.1, messages.2, messages.3, ... messages.7. The current Gauntlet firewall traffic can be compared to the Business Rule Set which will be implemented on replacement AWIPS Juniper Netscreen firewalls to ensure a continuation of operations when the new AWIPS Juniper Netscreen firewalls are installed.

After some discussion on the Rule Set, it was agreed that some of the rules need their wording tweaked a bit, mainly for clarification. Stowe will update the Rule Set and send it out to the RACC mailing list by tomorrow for all to review. The regional focal points were asked to forward them onto to their respective field sites for comments. Stowe will ask for comments to be returned to him within a week. The other action items were that Harry Taback will discuss with the Aviation Weather Center (AWC) and the other National Centers on how they use their firewalls. The regional focal point=s action item is to review the rule set and send back comments on how their region uses LDAD.

d. Update on Instructions for Coastal Sites Ingest of Puerto Rico Satellite Sectors: These particular sectors extend farther east and south into the Atlantic than do the CONUS GOES-East satellite imagery. During last year=s hurricane season, 15 WFOs were authorized to ingest this satellite imagery. NGIT had configured the DVBS equipment at these WFOs for the Puerto Rico satellite imagery. A lot of changes were required on the CPSBNs and in AWIPS. Due to the complexity of the AWIPS configuration, the 15 sites could not get the data in time for the 2004 hurricane season. Josh Watson of Eastern Region Headquarters recently tackled these configuration issues and came up with a set of instructions to the CPSBN and AWIPS, that were straightforward and easy. Wayne Martin has tested these procedures and tweaked them a bit. Wayne would like to field test these procedures. Eric Howieson volunteered WFO Key West (EYW). Wayne took the action item to send the updated instructions to EYW. Once Wayne receives the feedback from EYW, he will finalize them and distribute by e-mail to the appropriate personnel. Wayne also volunteered to assist any site using these instructions for the upcoming hurricane season. [**Editor=s Note**: the instructions were successfully tested at EYW.]

e. Focal Point/Participants Reports, Problems and Concerns:

Alaska Region: Doug Rankin is installing the final delta version of OB5 at AFC today. This was done at VRH a few days ago.

We have found instances of SSH timing out and doesn't connect to the other workstations. Has anybody else come across this problem? Bruno stated that they have seen this occur occasionally at NGIT. There are people looking into the problem and no solution has been found.

Central Region: We have tested at OB4.3 (the maintenance release formerly known as OB4.2a) at the AWC in relation to WarnGen and Shannon White has written up a report of comments and sent them to NWSHQ/NGIT. They were minor and had been seen in previous loads and are not show stoppers.

Eastern Region: We cannot obtain the new HPC Wind Grids in AWIPS. A trouble ticket #217447 was opened up and elevated by the NCF to the SST. Wayne Martin took the action item to see if it is in the AWIPS SST queue and if so, to look into the problem. **[Editor's Note:** This Trouble Ticket is currently located in the Telecommunication Gateway's queue.]

On this Wednesday's GHG conference call, a problem was reported that the IFPS Server was not restarting or restarting properly during a DX failover. FSL is investigating this problem. But, Eastern Region wanted to report that this would become a significant problem, if it is not fixed before the implementation of GHG in the fall. Remember, GHG will be the software that will be producing the Long Fuse Warnings. Sites should not have to go into service backup because of failover.

Pacific Region: We are doing our DX hardware installs. The cables to the PXs were not long enough but the problem was solved.

Southern Region: There are instances whereby products have been issued and have been appended together. This has recently occurred twice at OUN. It was reported that the SST has looked into this problem with no success. The SST will further check to see if a DR was written and if so, to make sure it gets forwarded to the appropriate technical personnel here at WSH since the region stressed it is a serious issue.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

FSL: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: During our WES development for OB5, we found a bug with the VR/Shear tool in D2D. It appears that the tool is off by 5 orders of magnitude. Ashley Kells of the SST asked that Timm Decker send him all the information on the problem so a DR can be written up.

ROC: Mark Albertelly of the NEXRAD Hotline asked Wayne Martin for instructions on changing the connection from the RFCs to their co-located WFOs, which involves obtaining radar data. This involves changing the current dial up connection to a LAN connection. Wayne referred Mark to an existing mod note on how to accomplish this task.

NGIT: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, June 29, 2005. If you know of any agenda items you wish to be discussed at this RACC, please e-mail them to Jim Stenpeck and cc Wayne Martin. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.